

The Coconino Sun

VOL. XX.

FLAGSTAFF, FEBRUARY 28, 1908.

No. 9

ARIZONA LEGISLATURE

Work of that Body Resumed on Tuesday—
More than One Hundred Bills Introduced—Only 20 days More.

The legislature took a recess from Friday of last week until Tuesday when they resumed their sessions. A bill was introduced by Mr. Marlar relative to primary elections. It will hurt no one and will probably be passed by both houses. It differs from the St. Charles bill, which is yet in the hands of a committee for modification, after having been defeated and reconsidered, in that it approaches less closely to the so-called Crawford county system. It proposes that the candidates shall not be named at the primaries, but that delegates shall be chosen to county conventions. The primaries of all parties shall be held at the same time and place and under the same supervision. The Australian ballot system shall prevail. Any voter may vote whatever ticket he chooses, but he can vote only one ticket. The voter must also vote in the precinct in which he happens to be registered.

Another feature which differs from the St. Charles bill is that the primaries are not to be held at the public expense; that is, they shall not be held at public expense unless the supervisors of a county may order so upon a petition from the voters of the county. In that case the supervisors may exercise their discretion about making the order.

Mr. Ashurst introduced a bill imposing a franchise tax upon all corporations hereafter to be formed in the territory. It is understood that this bill is intended to take the place of the Cowan bill now in the hands of a house committee to transfer from the office of the secretary to that of the auditor the business of incorporations with all emoluments. The Ashurst bill proposes that a franchise tax of \$10 shall be levied upon all new corporations and that the tax so received by the secretary shall be deposited by him with the territorial treasurer. The franchise tax shall be placed to the credit of the general fund. It is estimated that the annual revenue would be from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

The governor has signed House bill No. 10, entitled the poll-tax law.

Another bill introduced by Mr. Marlar is one to take the place of a bill previously introduced by him for remodeling the laws affecting boards of supervisors. The former bill was intended to be applicable to the needs of Maricopa county, but a great deal of objection was raised to it by the outside counties. It provided for the election of five supervisors by districts in counties of a certain class. The district feature was satisfactory, but it was thought that five were too many. It also contemplated a reduction of the salaries of supervisors to \$600; it proposed also to abolish road districts and road overseers, leaving the duty now performed by them to be performed by supervisors in their respective districts, for which they would receive remuneration making their total compensation about equal to what they now receive.

The only change proposed in the

present bill is that making supervisors elective by districts.

Mr. Henry of Gila introduced a bill relating to mines and mining. One was brought in by Mr. Lamont amending the statutes in relation to instruction by judges to juries.

The house goes on though doing its brief sessions in launching other new bills, of which seven were precipitated Wednesday as follows: By Mr. Collins, to create a legal standard of weights and measures; by Mr. Cowan, to correct the errors of the code; by Mr. Bernard, to amend the law with respect to the administration of estates; by Mr. O'Connell, to extend the provisions of paragraph 3250 relating to the records of mines and mineral deposits; by Mr. Page, for the relief of the Arizona Gazette, making an appropriation for the payment for printing the report of the territorial superintendent of public instruction; by Mr. Cowan, providing for the removal of children from parents and guardians who are unfit to have charge of them; by Mr. Rowe, providing for a franchise tax of \$10 to be paid into the territorial treasury by corporations hereafter to be formed in this territory. Two bills were passed. One is a bill amending the divorce laws and the other amending the law providing for the payment of bounties for the killing of wild animals.

In the house a bill changing the law with reference to changes of venue from justices courts was unfavorably reported and indefinitely postponed. The same thing happened to the bill providing for a reappointment of the legislative delegation by taking one member from Pinal county and giving one to Yavapai. There was another bill finally disposed of without becoming a law. That was the measure making a man support his poor relation and letting the board of supervisors determine the extent of his enforced munificence. The bill allowing the territorial militia to go to St. Louis exposition at its own expense, thereby giving the members thereof the same rights that are extended to other citizens by the constitution of the United States was also passed without objection. Ashurst's bill authorizing the governor to appoint a commission to assist in securing uniform divorce legislation throughout the United States was passed and only awaits the signature of the governor to become a law. The bill giving to members of city councils the option of having their proceedings published was also put through.

The four-weeks' contest in the legislature over the eight-hour bill came to an end at 6 o'clock Thursday evening. This is the conclusion warranted by the result of a caucus of members of the council which completed its labors at that hour. The contest ends in a compromise, as most conflicts of a political nature do. The 8-hour bill which passed the house will not be the bill which will reach the governor. The house measure will be so emasculated that its authors will hardly recognize it. As passed by the representatives, the bill provided that eight hours should constitute a day's work in mining generally, while the new bill will cover underground work only.

Spring poetry writers and the blue birds have commenced to show up.

NO STATEHOOD

The Compromise Bill Rejected—Action Indicates Defeat of Statehood This Session—Riders Withdrawn.

Dispatches from Washington say: There is not one chance in many of the passage of a statehood bill which would be satisfactory to the democratic supporters of the omnibus bill. It does not appear that the fight is yet over or that the avoidance of an extra session is assured. It was announced that all plans of campaign of the statehood men had been abandoned and that the forces had fallen apart. The democrats today proposed a compromise measure which will be presented to the republican opponents of the omnibus bill. It is a modification of the republican terms of compromise and there is a possibility of its acceptance. It contemplates the admission of Arizona and New Mexico jointly, the new state to be separated when it shall appear that Arizona has a population of 200,000.

If it should not be accepted the impression prevails that the statehood forces will solidify on it and renew the fight in some shape. The democrats are threatening to oppose the Panama and Cuban treaties with the omnibus bill. There is no doubt that they have it in their power to prevent the ratification of the treaty at this session.

The senate has made rapid progress. The statehood riders to the agricultural and postoffice appropriation bills were withdrawn and both bills were passed.

Secretary Not at Fault.

Some of the territorial newspapers are criticising the secretary of the territory for fixing, it is alleged, arbitrarily, the price at which articles of incorporation shall be published, and a number of them have recently devoted considerable space to the topic—notably the Prescott Journal-Miner and the Bisbee Review.

The assertions made by both the papers mentioned is that while the law permits a charge of three dollars an inch for publishing articles of incorporation, which would make the price for the publication range anywhere from thirty to one hundred dollars or more, the secretary fixes an arbitrary price of fifteen dollars for each publication.

If the Journal-Miner and Review will look into the history of the matter, they will find that the secretary's office is not entirely to blame. That office sets no prices. The prices quoted are those at which the cut-throat competition inaugurated by Phoenix and Tucson newspapers have brought the service. That it is not remunerative anyhow, everybody knows; but the rule governing the fraternity in those cities is to get the work regardless whether it be profitable.—Nogales Oasis.

A Lucky Editor.

The friends of Col. Allen Bird of the Nogales Oasis will be interested in the following:

"Saturday morning of last week, just before starting upon the trip he is now taking beyond the Yaqui river, the Oasis man ate his breakfast at the hotel at La Cloroda with Dr. J. R.

Magruder and J. R. Hooper. The scribe had "fried eggs in his," and with the first mouthful he took he found between his teeth a hard substance, which upon removal proved to be a gold nugget weighing about a quarter of an ounce—a value of about \$5. Messrs. Hooper and Magruder immediately started a quest for the hen which laid the eggs, with an understanding that if she is found the editor is to have a one-third interest in the bonanza. She is to be furnished a handsome house, plenty of good feed, and every inducement will be offered her to continue laying eggs of the same sort."

A Train Load of Sheep.

A rather unusual freight train passed through Prescott about six o'clock yesterday evening bound for Peoria, Arizona. This train was composed of 18 of the largest size double deck sheep cars, each car containing about 250 sheep or nearly 5000 sheep in the train. The train was being propelled by three large mountain engines. Another peculiar thing about the cargo composing this train was the fact that the sheep were from New Mexico, having been shipped from Shawnee, near Grant, New Mexico. This may seem almost like shipping coal to Newcastle to ship sheep from New Mexico to Arizona for pasture, but the facts are that the pasture in the Salt river valley this year is unsurpassed and several hundred thousand head of sheep are being shipped into that valley for pasture and shearing, and the fame of that section has reached even beyond our own borders.—Jerome Miner.

Have all the Indigent They Need.

The supervisors of Maricopa county will not ratify the contract offered this county by the supervisors of Cochise county to care for the indigent poor of that county at the hospital farm of this county.

The supervisors of this county have come to that conclusion after viewing the matter from all sides, as they think the move would not be desirable one for this county for various reasons, among them, that is not desirable to bring any more of that class of people to this city and county than is possible. It is feared the move might have a tendency to increase the per capita cost of maintenance, as it is said about all the inmates are now kept at the farm as can be maintained at a minimum cost.

If the Cochise contract had been ratified several other counties would have been ready to ask for similar contracts.—Gazette.

Government Experimenting in Flagstaff.

F. D. Preston, of the United States Coast survey is here for the purpose of making electrical test with a view of establishing a magnetic station here if the tests are satisfactory. At present he has his apparatus near the Normal school. The magnetic station requires a large building in which to erect the necessary instruments and the attention of two or three experienced observers. Test have been made at other points in the Territory both south and west of this place, and test will be made along the line of the railroad east of here, and it is expected that the government will later establish a magnetic at the point which gives the most favorable results.